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HRH Princess Basma Thursday
where she opened the Thalassery

Princess tours

IRBID — HRH Princess Basma Thursday reviewed the Ramallah charity campaign organized by the Queen's Trust for the Development of the West Bank and Gaza in Irbid yesterday in Irbid.

The princess has thus extended assistance to sports and families.

Princess Basma toured

Debate continues for women

By Rana Hussein
Amman Times

AMMAN — Deputy Prime Minister's office again almost rejected a proposal for a quota for women in Parliament.

It was said that a woman might be elected to Parliament not because she is a woman but because she is a qualified politician who is willing to work for the state.

Mr. Farsal said.

It was said that a woman's quota was rejected Wednesday at a United States Information Service (USIS) meeting entitled "Jordanian women in political life."

In his rebuttal, Ms. Farsal differed with Chief Editor of the weekly daily Al-Dustour Nabil Sharaf and Secretary General of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNF) Walid Hindawi who supported a quota for women in accordance with certain criteria.

Dr. Sharaf and Ms. Hindawi responded by affirming that experiences abroad have effectively proved that a quota has helped women to reach parliamentary status, and that not necessarily will an unqualified woman reach the seat.

Deputy Farsal said that the weak presence of women in political parties and not holding leading positions played a factor in lack of participation in political life.

Ms. Farsal, the only female Deputy in the eighty-seat House, called on political parties to empower Jordanian women to assume leading positions in their parties, stating that there are many Jordanian women who are qualified to occupy such leading posts but are not in the chance due to the leaders of political parties in Jordan.

"Before the democratic process was instituted in 1952, political parties were banned, oppressed and abused and any achievement made by them members went unrecognized," she said.

In addition, women's representation in political parties is weakened because of the social barriers which "ruled that women should stay out of politics and

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What

* Ramadanat exhibition from Wadi (dried fruits) and Jordan River Dried accessories at JRD showrooms.

* Exhibition on the "Institute of" until Feb 10.

prayers in Mecca and Medina

more than 1.75 million people attended the two mosques of Mecca and Medina. The official Saudi Press Agency said the number of pilgrims passing through the gates of Mecca during the last month of Ramadan, which ends on Feb. 1, was expected to grow during the last month of the month. The annual pilgrimage in mid April this year last year and 1.6 million people to Mecca alone.

back 125 Syrian Kurds

Lebanon has sent back 125 Syrian Kurds who had fled into the country on the promise of a safe haven. The Kurds, who were abandoned on a small island in the Mediterranean Sea, were taken to the port of Tyre and then to the port of Beirut. The Kurds were then taken to the port of Beirut and then to the port of Beirut. The Kurds were then taken to the port of Beirut and then to the port of Beirut.

Princess tours camp, hospital in Irbid

HRH Princess Basma Thursday visits with patients in the Princess Rahma Hospital where she opened the Thalassemia Section (Petra photo)

Princess tours camp, hospital in Irbid

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The campaign has thus far extended assistance to 5,000 indigent families.

Princess Basma toured

Azmi Al Mufti Camp near Irbid and donated JD10,000 to finance several activities there while she inspected the distribution of assistance to the needy.

Later, she toured Eidoun Social Service Centre where she provided ten wheelchairs for the handicapped.

The Princess also opened the Thalassemia section at Princess Rahma Hospital in Irbid city and inspected the blood bank there.

She was accompanied by Deputies Abdul Rahim Ekour, Nader Abdul Sbaer, Saleh Sba'awa and other senior officials at the governorate.

Home News



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Debate continues over quota system for women in Parliament

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Tawajj Faisal has once again adamantly rejected a proposal to set a quota for seats for women in Parliament.

"I fear that a woman might [be elected to] Parliament simply because she is a woman and not because she is a qualified politician who is willing to work for change," Ms. Faisal said.

The issue of a woman's quota was debated Wednesday at the United States Information Service (USIS) media forum entitled "Jordanian women in political life."

In her rebuttal, Ms. Faisal differed with Chief Editor of the Arabic daily Al-Dustour Nabil Sharif and Secretary General of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNF) Rand Hindawi, who supported a quota for women in accordance with certain criteria.

Dr. Sharif and Ms. Hindawi responded by affirming that experiences abroad have effectively proved that a quota has helped women to reach parliamentary status, and that not necessarily will an unqualified woman reach the seat.

Deputy Faisal said that the weak presence of women in political parties and not holding leading positions played a factor in lack of participation in political life.

Ms. Faisal, the only female deputy in the eighty-seat House, called on political parties to empower Jordanian women to assume leading positions in their parties, stating that there are many Jordanian women who are qualified to occupy such leading posts but are not given the chance due to the history of political parties in Jordan.

"Before the democratic process was instituted in 1989, political parties were banned, oppressed and abused, and any achievement made by their members went unrecognised," she said.

In addition, women's representation in political parties is weakened because of the social barriers which "ruled that women should stay out of politics and

instead should assume the role of staying home and taking care of their children," Ms. Faisal said.

However, she maintained, women's chances of winning more seats in the upcoming elections are doubled after the psychological barrier was broken and a woman finally reached Parliament.

"Since the psychological barrier has been broken and a woman reached the House, I think that in the next elections more women will win," Ms. Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal also explained that several factors co-exist which play a role in deterring women from reaching Parliament and other positions of leadership.

"The one-man one-vote, (approved by Parliament last week), negatively impacts women, especially as 'most candidates depend on tribal support which is male oriented,' she said.

"A certain tribe would prefer to support a male relative even if he is not qualified, rather supporting a female qualified candidate," Ms. Faisal maintained.

Further, she stated that women running for Parliament or any other political position need to exert extra efforts to prove themselves as more qualified than male opponents running for the same position.

In addition she said, general social pressure builds pressure on most women, who break social rules by deciding to run for a political seat, and often they fear losing the election.

"Women running for a certain election, are expected to win, and if they don't it is considered a big shame by society. On the other hand, if a man runs and loses it is considered normal," Ms. Faisal told the gathering.

Also, she said, women's economic situation is weak, which stems from old cultural practices which ruled that men should own the capital and the women.

"Because of old social practices, women were brought up as financially dependant on male relatives, which makes their chances minimal in participating in political life," the deputy said.

Ms. Hindawi attributed the weak participation of women in political life to social, economic and cultural factors and stated that lack of confidence among women is a major factor, "because of the way they were raised in society."

"Most women were brought up and expected to follow the stereotypical role, which is the role of a mother who is responsible for taking care of her house and not participating in political life," Ms. Hindawi said.

For that purpose, Ms. Hindawi maintained, the JNF has prepared a national strategy in coordination with non-governmental organisations to encourage more women to participate in the political arena.

"But we prefer that the change be slow so that it will gain momentum and not fail," Ms. Hindawi said.

Dr. Sharif stressed the importance of women's participation in political life, stating that responsibility falls on the government to strengthen women's presence in political life.

He said that this could be accomplished through enacting legislation, rules and regulations, giving specific quotas to women in Parliament, the Cabinet and other senior positions, similar to what is applicable in other countries, such as Germany, which enhanced women's participation in political life through setting such a quota.

Dr. Sharif also said a factor working against women in political participation is the appointment of individuals by the government for top positions.

"I am against this because mostly men are appointed. This will frustrate other qualified women and deter them from attempting political participation," he noted.

Dr. Sharif added that the media also bears responsibility. "Women in the media are still portrayed as weak and are always expected to follow a stereotypical role and abide by it," he concluded.

Ministry, World Bank officials meet

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture officials are meeting with those of the World Bank in order to obtain assistance to restructure the agricultural sector in Jordan, Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat announced Friday.

This renovation, as envisaged by the ministry, will involve promoting agricultural extension and research services, transforming the Agricultural Credit Corporation into a bank allocating loans to farmers, ensuring greater contributions from the private sector, improving agricultural quarantine methods near the borders and modernising veterinary services, he said.

These aims are to be achieved through a general plan for upgrading agricultural services currently under study by Jordan and the World Bank, he added.

Dr. Shneikat affirmed the Japanese government has agreed to finance studies on the process of the Agricultural Credit Corporation's conversion into a bank as well as improving veterinary and extension services.

The minister maintained that the project envisages the creation of a company to market agricultural products, open new markets for Jordan, develop agricultural research and locate high quality products as well as to upgrade the packaging and classification of agricultural products.

JEA to protest against government

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) has resolved to implement "serious" measures against the government in response to the latter's failure to implement a memorandum of understanding, JEA Vice President Husein Abu Ghida told the Jordan Times Friday.

The memorandum in question was reached with a special ministerial committee formed to study the engineers' demands, he said.

In a meeting with more than 1,500 engineers on Thursday, the JEA general assembly called on association members to participate in a sit-in on Feb. 22 in

front of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Mr. Abu Ghida said.

The engineers employed in the public sector have been demanding an increase of 150 per cent in their basic monthly salary which currently stands at JD 150.

They have also been demanding the promotion of engineers to higher levels on the public sector employee scale.

Public sector employees are rated on a scale of 1-10. The lowest being 10, the highest one.

Mr. Abu Ghida earlier explained that previous to 1988, recently graduated engineers could begin their careers as public employees from grade five, while today these engineers are

hired as sixth grade employees with a consequent loss in benefits and allowances.

Therefore, Mr. Abu Ghida said, the JEA will continue its efforts to push the government to solve these problems.

He affirmed that one week after the February 22 sit-in, JEA members will organise a protest march from the association to the prime ministry.

Engineers will end the march with a sit-in in front of the prime ministry, he said.

"One week after this march, we will cease working for two hours every day," Mr. Abu Ghida said, adding that this daily strike will continue for a week to be followed with a general

strike on March 22.

In fact, the ministerial committee Wednesday resolved to amend the basic salary allowances of JEA members in accordance with the memorandum of understanding which was signed in October.

The committee's decision is expected to be sent to the Cabinet for approval on Tuesday.

But, Mr. Abu Ghida asserted earlier that the government has not heretofore discussed the engineers' allowances amendment with JEA members, noting that "no specific figures from Wednesday's meeting were made available to them."

Court acquits 3 journalists accused of slander, harming government ties

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Court of First Instance has acquitted former editor-in-chief of Al-Ahali weekly tabloid Jamil Nimri and reporters Basel Tallouzi and Ramadan Rawashdeh on charges of slander, harming government leaders and harming the Kingdom's ties with other Arab countries.

Judge Tawfiq Qaisi ruled that the three journalists are not guilty of instigating masses against the Jordan-Israel peace treaty through articles in Al-Ahali weekly, issued by the political party, Hasbi, while

they were working for the weekly.

On Oct. 16, 1993, the Press and Publications Department filed a case against the three, accusing them of publishing material in violation of the Press and Publications Law and harming national security.

Mr. Rawashdeh, currently employed by Al-Rai daily, was held for five days at Jweidh prison and had written an article about his detention. Mr. Tallouzi, currently employed by the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, had written an article attacking the Oslo accords.

Mr. Nimri had published an article on Iraq.

It was these articles which called violations of the Press and Publications Law into question.

Attorney Ghanem Zureiqat defended the three journalists on a pro-hono basis.

Mr. Rawashdeh and Mr. Nimri used to belong to the Hashd party but apparently withdrew their membership two years ago, however Mr. Tallouzi has reportedly never been affiliated to any political party.

Road accidents blamed on downpour

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a result of Thursday's downpour, 12 persons were slightly injured in 80 road accidents, involving 120 cars, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al-Rai.

Most of the accidents took place at the University of Jordan Road, the airport, Salt and Juwaidah, it said.

The country will continue to be affected, over the next two days by a cold air mass, accompanying the low pressure front which has recently impacted the country, leading to heavy rainfall in various parts of the country and light snow in the southern heights, Meteorology Department sources said Friday.

The sources expected a small rise in temperature on Saturday and Sunday, with temperatures reaching a minimum of 1 degree and a maximum of 8 degrees Celsius.

They also warned of frost formation on Saturday and Sunday morning.

On Monday, the country will be affected by another cold pressure front accompanied by heavy rain, the sources said.

Commission admonishes Israelis to cease excavations in Jerusalem

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs (RCJA) Thursday issued an admonition against continued excavations within the area of Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound in Jerusalem.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock are situated in the compound and the RCJA said that the excavations threaten the very foundation of the Muslim shrines.

The statement accused the Israeli government of systematically Judaizing the holy city, surrounding it with Jewish settlements and changing the religious, historic and demographic character of the Arab city.

"Over the past three decades of Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem, successive Israeli governments have been pursuing their excavations within the site of Al-Haram Al-Sharif Compound, threatening the foundations of the holy sites while simultaneously constructing Jewish settlements within

and around the city," the statement said.

"Despite repeated warnings and statements of condemnation issued by Arab, Islamic and international organisations and in defiance of UN resolutions which consider the city occupied territory and which rule against any change in the legal, administrative, demographic and historic character of the Arab city, successive governments continue to sabotage the Arab city and its religious and historic sites," it added.

The statement referred to the mayhem which arose following the Israeli opening of a tunnel under Al-Aqsa Mosque and stated that the riots serve as a warning to the Israeli government that Arabs and Muslims are determined to liberate their holy shrines.

It warned that these Israeli actions were bound to lead the region to further violence and ruin all chances of peace.



A view of the Club

Dunes Club Amman... now under construction

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What's Going On

EXHIBITIONS

Arabian exhibition from Wadi Dana Nature Reserve (silver nature jewelry, jams, dried fruits) and Jordan River Designs (JRD) ornaments (tablecloths, candles, embroidered accessories) at JRD showroom, Jabal Amman, First Circle (Tel. 613081), until Feb. 6.

Exhibition on the "Institute of the Arab World in Paris" at the French Cultural Centre, until Feb. 6.

inexperience in the rough and tumble world of Pakistani politics.

"She is experienced and has been in politics for a long time. She is tough, but I am tougher than her. People are with me," said Ghinwa, who is benefitting from the growing cult status surrounding her late husband.

Other analysts believe Ghinwa enjoys support from the caretaker government and could cut sharply into Ms. Bhuno's support base.

An array of regional groups, including former PML ally, Awami National Party, which is strong in northwest Pakistan, are also in the fray.

An unknown factor is the Movement for Justice launched 10 months ago by former cricketer Imran Khan, who has already stated that he would not take part in a coalition government.

The Gallup survey predicted that although his personal popularity was riding at 10 per cent, the party would only poll around five per cent of the vote.

"I believe the abolition of the... bill (of rights) will bring instability to the rule of law in the future special region," said the letter by Mr. Fung, who is also a member of the territory's Beijing-appointed provisional legislature.

Mr. Fung voiced opposition to China's decision to repeal recent Hong Kong regulations allowing political parties, warning that Beijing's decision to return to the British colonial era system would affect Hong Kong's stability as well as its credibility.

I believe that to restore these provisions is totally against developing toward the casting off of colonialism and against the principle of Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong," he said in the letter. Mr. Fung's group advocates democracy for Hong Kong through cooperation not confrontation with Beijing.

Hong Kong's post-colonial leader Tung Chee-Hwa, who is attending the crucial committee meeting in Beijing, argued in defence of Beijing's move that the international community had misconstrued the situation.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has expressed concern. Britain summoned the Chinese ambassador in London order to lodge a protest and Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind plans to pursue the issue in a meeting with Mr. Tiao next month.

Guenter Beckstein wallow in rhetoric, basic human rights are being denied our parishioners in Germany," said Jentzsch.

"CSU politicians think their egos are more important than the right of German citizens to provide for their families, send their children to school and live their lives free of government harassment and intimidation."

But Mr. Protzner accused Scienceology of pressuring its members "financially and psychologically" and said the state had to protect its citizens from the organisation.

"The state has a duty to protect its citizens from these criminal underhand practices. The CSU and all German democrats will not be influenced by this slanderous rhetoric," he said.

Mr. Protzner added the CSU would continue to make public its view that Scienceology was "a profitable organisation similar to the mafia, which aimed to undermine state structures."

PARIS (R) — France denied any change in nuclear doctrine after German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe fuelled uproar in Paris by saying the French had for the first time accepted the supremacy of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) U.S. nuclear deterrent.

Mr. Ruehe's comment on German television gave fresh ammunition to France's left-wing opposition, which argues the government has sacrificed national defence sovereignty to the United States and NATO in a joint defence document with Bonn.

Misgivings about NATO extended to members of the ruling coalition, with two former defence ministers expressing doubts about the centre-right government's policy.

Mr. Ruehe said Wednesday: "It is worth noting that France for the first time has signed a document in which NATO's nuclear defence is seen as the decisive element and the British and French nuclear systems back this up."

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rumelhard, contradicted Mr.

GANDHI'S ASHES: Tushar Gandhi (centre), great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, modern India's founding father, pours the Mahatma's ashes into the Ganges River in the Northern Indian city of Allahabad Thursday. The ashes have been brought to Allahabad for immersion at the confluence of India's three famous rivers, the Yamuna, Ganges and the mythical Saraswati, on the 49th anniversary of the Mahatma's assassination (Reuters photo)

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's official union called a nationwide minute of silence Thursday for the burial of its leader, assassinated this week as he prepared to enter politics.

Meanwhile a bomb over Bida, 50 kilometres south of the capital, killed one person and injured 10 others Wednesday, the independent newspaper *Al Wazn* reported Thursday.

It was the latest violence that has left 270 dead and 600 injured since the Holy Month of Ramadan began Jan. 10. There was no claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on militants waging a five-year-old insurgency that has left 60,000 dead.

Newspapers have fingered suspects ranging from the insurgents to political or commercial enemies for the slaying of union leader **Abul Haq Benhamouda Tuesday.**

Killed in a professional-style hit in front of the headquarters of his General Union of Algerian Workers, Benhamouda was buried in the "Martyrs Quarter" of **Al Ajlaja Cemetery.**

The union, known by its French initials **UGTA,** called for the minute of si-

edly involved in the attack that also killed a bodyguard and a building guard.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but newspapers Wednesday offered a variety of suspects.

The daily *Liberte* noted that Benhamouda had many open enemies, including "fundamentalism, terrorism and the political-financial mafia."

To some, the killing was a defiant challenge to Mr. Zeroul's promise last week to "exterminate" the insurgency. It came amid a bloody series of car-bombs and mass decapitations blamed on the militants.

A longtime opponent of fundamentalist Islam as a political force, Benhamouda was a critic of what he called the business "barons" of the National Liberation Front.

Meanwhile, The French government reasserted its hands-off attitude towards Algeria Thursday, saying it had no business meddling in the internal affairs of its violence-torn former North African colony.

"Algeria is not France. That must be understood and admitted once and for all. It is a sovereign coun-

"France has no business undertaking an isolated action...it must keep its policy within a European and Euro-Mediterranean approach-with its partners," Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said.

An estimated 60,000 people have been killed since Algeria plunged into civil strife after the authorities cancelled 1992 elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. Violence has flared during the current Ramadan Muslim fast.

Both Mr. De Charette and Mr. Giscard d'Estaing welcomed President Zeroul's pledge to hold parliamentary elections soon.

The Foreign Ministry quoted Mr. De Charette as telling the closed-door hearing that France hoped the poll would be held in full openness and all legal political groups would take part.

While Mr. De Charette pointedly refused to tell L'Express if Algiers should negotiate with Muslim fundamentalist rebels, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said they must be allowed to run in the poll.

"All political groups, including Islamists, must be allowed to field candidates,"

GUATEMALA CITY (R)—About 1,000 armed Guatemalan military police Thursday defied their commanders and seized their own compound in the first army rebellion against terms of a peace treaty signed last month.

Protesting soldiers toting machineguns manned lookout posts on the compound's perimeter wall, and roadblocks made of tires were put up in surrounding streets.

While there was no fighting or violence, some politicians feared the revolt posed a threat to the fragile peace accord.

"This is pretty worrying because it is an attempt against the peace treaty,"

The protesters were demanding severance pay when they took 4,000-strong military police (PMA) is dissolved this year as part of government promises to leftist rebels.

Protesters complained that the guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit had won a better deal in the peace accords. That concern was shared by officers, who while not part of the rebellion, were in the compound in apparent sympathy with their men.

"The government is obtaining help for the guerrillas and not for us," said Lt. Col. Escriba, who refused

us, marginalising us with out any rights. While they don't give us money, we won't band over our arms," one soldier told Reuters.

It was the first such protest by the country's powerful army since the Dec. 29 peace treaty that ended a 36-year war in which 140,000 Guatemalans died or disappeared.

Protesters said they would maintain their stand "to the bitter end." They said they had given the government 48 hours to reach a negotiated solution, but did not spell out what would happen if their demands were ignored.

The government pledged to the peace treaty to cut the armed forces by a third

Army spokesman Otto Noack said the peace agreements clearly stated that all demobilised army personnel would receive government aid for a "productive return" to civilian life, but they did not set a specific severance pay.

"That is the big worry of the people who work in the PMA, how much their severance pay or benefits will be," he said.

The protest began late Wednesday when the military policemen refused to turn in their arms after work and took over the fortified compound in northern Guatemala City.

Most of the urban mili-

During the protest some of the police stopped traffic on streets around the compound and huranged drivers. They demanded negotiations with the government, asking for \$6,600 to \$8,300 surety paye.

"I am sure that you will not have to leave empty-handed," said Gen. Manuel Ventura of the Defence Ministry, who arrived Thursday at the compound to negotiate with the protesters.

PARIS, R) — French President M. Chirac assured Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma Thursday that both countries should have a say in the expansion of NATO to help maintain stability in Europe.

Mr. Chirac said after meeting with Kuchma that the two had "broadly converged" on the idea that security in post-conflict Europe requires NATO enlargement, including NATO enlargement, and the need for a deal involving all nations as part of a new security architecture.

"We agree on these objectives," Chirac said.

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Moscow, which opposes
n, Kiev says no state should

Guatemala military police rise up over peace pact

GUATEMALA CITY — About 1,000 Guatemalan military police officers rose up against the peace pact signed last month. The officers, who are part of the army, are protesting against the terms of the peace agreement. They are demanding better pay and conditions. The protest is the latest in a series of military uprisings in Guatemala.



A Buddha statue hangs at the entrance of a Buddhist temple, as a military officer and a Muslim leader stand in front of the temple, which was burned by an angry mob Thursday in Rengasdengklok. A mob of Indonesian Muslims burned and wrecked churches and temples after reports that an ethnic Chinese woman insulted Muslims. (Reuters photo)

Troops patrol Indonesian town after riots

JAKARTA (R) — Troops patrolled the Indonesian town of Rengasdengklok Friday after rioters burned and wrecked churches and temples. The rioters were angry because of reports that an ethnic Chinese woman had insulted Muslims. The rioters burned and wrecked churches and temples. The rioters were angry because of reports that an ethnic Chinese woman had insulted Muslims. The rioters burned and wrecked churches and temples. The rioters were angry because of reports that an ethnic Chinese woman had insulted Muslims.

Serbia's opposition, students march for democracy

BELGRADE (R) — Opposition leaders led tens of thousands of supporters through the dark, chilly streets of Belgrade, vowing to continue protests until democratic reforms are in place and their victory in Serbia's local elections is accepted. The number of people has not diminished in any way, opposition politician Zoran Djindjic told marchers converging on the city centre. "Our objective is the democratisation of Serbia, and anything less would be an insult to all these people." Police kept a low profile again on the 75th day of demonstrations, making no attempt to halt or divert groups of pedestrians — each several hundred strong and all wrapped in brightly coloured anoraks, scarves and woolly hats against the biting cold — heading to republic square. Residents opened their windows en route and waved to those below, some banging pots and pans in a cacophony of solidarity, from whistles and cheers to impromptu singing and drumming. The mood was generally festive. At the square itself, fireworks burst overhead. A cordon of anti-riot police in helmets and carrying shields and batons stood quietly at one end to deter the protestors, some of them holding children on their shoulders, from moving south into the government and business district. Witnesses estimated the number of demonstrators at about 50,000. Earlier in the afternoon some 15,000 students demanding political and educational reform filled the streets and disrupted traffic when they too marched on the railway station. Plainclothes police watched, but made no attempt to interfere. Both students and the three-party opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition share the demand that the opposition victories in local elections on Nov. 17 in 14 Serbian towns, including Belgrade, be recognised. Investigators from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have concluded that the polls, annulled by President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling Socialists on grounds of "irregularities," were fairly won. In what some political analysts saw as a conciliatory gesture...

Chechen leader tries to lure presidential rivals

GROZNY (R) — Chechen guerrilla leader Aslan Maskhadov, acclaimed winner of Sunday's post-war election in the breakaway region, sought Thursday to bring his main presidential rival into a future government. The latest incomplete returns put Mr. Maskhadov well ahead of prominent rebel commander Shamil Basayev, who fuelled fears of a potentially explosive split in rebel ranks with bitter attacks on his former chief-of-staff during the election campaign. Commander Basayev Wednesday conceded victory to Mr. Maskhadov and said he would not get in his way. He said he planned to quit politics for the computer business but added that if Mr. Maskhadov ditched some of his aides he would work for him "even as a janitor." Maskhadov's spokesman for the quietly-spoken Maskhadov, said that he had not yet made any official offers of posts in his new government but was about to. "A meeting between Mr. Maskhadov and Mr. Basayev is now going on in Mr. Maskhadov's house," he told Reuters in an interview. "Mr. Basayev will more than likely accept." Bodyguards at Mr. Maskhadov's house in Pervomaiskoye, about five kilometres north-west of the regional capital Grozny, said later that Commander Basayev had spent only five minutes with Mr. Maskhadov but that the two men had agreed to meet again in two days. Mr. Vachagayev said a meeting between Mr. Maskhadov and Chechnya's current leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev was planned for Thursday evening, but did not say what would be on the agenda. Mumadi Saydayev, chairman of Chechnya's Central Electoral Commission, said the latest returns showed Mr. Maskhadov with 63.3 per cent of the vote against Commander Basayev's 24.4 per cent. Mr. Yandarbiyev was trailing with 10.9 per cent, he told Reuters. Russian news agencies said that both Mr. Basayev and Mr. Yandarbiyev had complained of violations in the elections, declared free by international observers, but said they accepted the results. Hardline rebel Salman Raduyev, who led a bloody hostage raid a year ago, said Wednesday he did not recognise the poll, would not obey Mr. Maskhadov and planned terror attacks on Russia. Both Moscow and Grozny said Thursday they would not allow Commander Raduyev's inflammatory statements to increase tension in the region. The Chechen authorities promised a tough response to any illegal acts by Mr. Raduyev Thursday and proposed three possible dates for the inauguration. They were Feb. 10, the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan or a week later after runoff parliamentary elections, which are due to be held in 55 out of the 63 voting districts on Feb. 15. Mr. Vachagayev said that Mr. Maskhadov wanted one of those dates rather than the third option of a date in two months time. "But we are not that bothered about that problem because real power already lies with Mr. Maskhadov. The ceremony handing over power will be just a formality," Mr. Mayarbek told Reuters.

Zaire fights guerrillas on many fronts; opposes talks

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's counter-offensive against rebels has run into resistance with its mercenary-backed army fighting rebels on several fronts, government and military sources said Thursday. But the government, which has opted for a military solution to the three-month-old Tutsi-led revolt in the east, once again ruled out negotiations, saying troops from neighbouring countries must leave first. "There is a dynamic developing in certain quarters for Zaire to negotiate with the rebels," Deputy Foreign Minister Henri Thomas Lokondo Yoka told reporters in Kinshasa. "The government will not negotiate with the aggressors until we have recovered all the territory that has been occupied," he said. Zaire accuses Rwanda, Burundi and most recently Uganda of invading to back the rebels, who launched their offensive in October and hold towns and territory in the east. All three deny their troops are fighting inside Zaire. A senior Zairean Defence Ministry official said Ugandan troops had reached Bunia in Upper Zaire. Zaire's army earlier claimed to have retaken part of Bunia. An army communique issued in Kinshasa Thursday said Ugandan troops were fighting to take towns such as Watsa and Isiro, hundreds of kilometres into Upper Zaire province. Military sources told Reuters earlier Zairean soldiers and foreign mercenaries were based in Watsa. The army accused Rwandan troops of fighting on the road from Walekale, just over 100 kilometres from the Rwandan border, to Kisangani, headquarters for the Zairean counter-offensive. It said Burundian soldiers were aiding rebels advancing down the road to the southern mining province of Shaba and were within 30 kilometres of it. The Defence Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said they were within 70 kilometres of Kalemie, home town of rebel leader Laurent Kabila. "We are having to fight on several fronts," he said. The accounts from Kinshasa were in line with reports from Rwanda that rebels in eastern Zaire were pushing south and west, opening new fronts to frustrate the army's counter-offensive. "The strategy is clearly to stretch out the front as far as possible," a Western diplomat in neighbouring Rwanda said. After losing a long strip of eastern territory to Mr. Kabila's rebels late last year, Zaire's ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko and his government launched a counter-attack. Reports from the field suggest Zaire's army, which launched its offensive on Jan. 20, is increasingly on the defensive. Western sources in Kinshasa in radio contact with the region said Watsa had already fallen to rebels with Ugandan backing. The sources said the rebels and their allies had large supplies of anti-aircraft missiles and rocket-propelled grenades. Zairean troops and allied mercenaries had fled the superior numbers and weaponry of the rebels. Zaire has significantly increased its arsenal, importing combat helicopters, fighter jets, artillery and munitions as well as around 300 mercenaries. But senior military officials complain in private that despite recently ac-

Bloody Sunday relatives mourn for justice

LONDON (R) — Relatives of 13 Catholics killed by British troops on "Bloody Sunday" 25 years ago mourned their dead Thursday and vowed to keep campaigning for an apology from the British government. Bishop Seamus Hegarty, spiritual leader of Londonderry's 80,000 Irish Catholics, echoed their plea, calling on Britain to bring in a team of foreign experts to reopen a probe into what he called "the massacre of Bloody Sunday." He told a commemorative mass for the victims that Britain's "wholly unconvincing explanation" for the shootings had added to the trauma of the families. Bells rang out and a two-minute silence fell among several hundred mourners around a simple grey monument which marks one of the most emotive days in the calendar of Northern Ireland's pro-Irish 40 per cent Catholic minority. John Kelly, whose teenage brother was killed, said: "The campaign to clear their names will continue." But British Prime Minister John Major told parliament: "Without fresh evidence, I see no advantage in raking over these old problems. With fresh evidence... We would examine it." Mr. Kelly said the British government "lied through its teeth" about the incident in which paratroopers fired on an unarmed Catholic crowd and helped swell the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the guerrilla group fighting British rule. "But we are determined that the truth will out and hopefully our loved ones will rest in peace and those who are grieving will some day have comfort," Mr. Kelly told Reuters. The campaign received reinforcement from an Irish legal expert who said some of the British paratroopers involved in the 1972 killings should have been prosecuted for murder. Dermot Walsh, a law professor at Limerick University, told Reuters there were discrepancies in statements made by the soldiers to a British enquiry into the killings. which had deteriorated seriously. The report's conclusion would seem to make it impossible for the United States not to sponsor a controversial resolution at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva faulting China's record. In fact, U.S. officials have told Reuters they expect the Clinton administration to proceed with the resolution in conjunction with European allies. But they acknowledge such a resolution is unlikely to be adopted. New Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said she will pursue a policy of inclusion rather than isolation towards China and, while keen to foster human rights, does not want to hold the overall relationship hostage to one issue. The report said Turkey had serious human rights problems in 1996 and its record deteriorated in some respects. "The (Turkish) government was unable to sustain improvements made in 1995 and, as a result, its record was uneven in 1996 and deteriorated in some respects," it said, adding: "Serious human rights problems continued." The section on South Korea said violence against women, especially rape, is a serious problem there. "Women continued to face legal and societal discrimination. Violence against women and physical abuse remain serious problems," it said. The Afghanistan review contained what may be the toughest U.S. criticism of the Muslim group that has taken over much of the country, saying, "discrimination (against women) reached new heights of severity in Afghanistan with the rise to power of the Taliban." It said Russia's rights record showed little progress last year, with Russian forces using "indiscriminate and disproportionate" force in the breakaway Republic of Chechnya. The department, as expected, took issue with Germany for discriminating against scientists in business and cultural life, but said there had also been "some positive developments" in Bonn's treatment of the group. It found Indonesia continued to commit serious human rights abuses in 1996, including in East Timor. "While Indonesia exhibits a surface adherence to democratic norms, its political system remains strongly authoritarian," it said. The report said political killings in Haiti rose last year from 1995, but remained far fewer than in the years that led to the U.S. military operation that restored the first democratically elected president. The human rights record of Communist-ruled Cuba worsened last year with a crackdown on a pro-democracy umbrella group and many other alleged abuses of power, the report said. It said Nigeria's human rights performance remains dismal. On the positive side, the department asserted that a broad consensus has been steadily emerging against fundamental rights abuses. "Even those who engage in these practices rarely seek to justify their actions outright," it said.

Suspected female terrorist commits suicide amid Sri Lanka alert

COLOMBO (AFP) — A suspected female cadre of the Tamil Tiger guerrilla group committed suicide Friday at a police road block in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, officials said. Police were checking the woman's identity papers when she swallowed a cyanide capsule and died instantly, police said, adding that they were investigating the incident. The death, on the anniversary of a suicide bombing last year in which 91 people were killed and 1,400 wounded, came as security forces were on red alert ahead of the country's 49th independence anniversary celebrations on Feb. 4. Security has been tightened to prevent attacks in the capital by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), officials said. Colombo's Police Chief Tikiri Banda Dissanayake said Thursday they had reports of up to four LTTE suicide cadres infiltrating the capital to stage attacks, and authorities were taking all possible precautions. On Wednesday, police found a small quantity of explosives and ammunition left in a bus at the main bus station here, officials said. Road blocks and check points are a regular feature in the capital where police and soldiers often search vehicles and check the identity papers of passengers and pedestrians. The police have issued more than a dozen identikit pictures of men and women, drawn up following tip-offs after last year's devastating bombing of the central bank. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Friday again blamed former President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the assassination of her film star-turned-politician husband Vijaya. In an interview with reporters here, Mrs. Kumaratunga reiterated her accusations which she said had been backed up by a high-level investigation. The commission set up in late 1994 after she came to power had concluded that Mr. Premadasa and his deputy Ranjan Wijeratne were "directly and indirectly" responsible for the February 1988 slaying of Vijaya Kumaratunga, she said.

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U.S. economist says G-7 must avert 'panic' over Japanese finance woes

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Lacklustre activity marks trading at AFM last week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading remained steady and prices dipped a little last week in lacklustre business at the Amman stock market as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan marked its third week, brokers said Friday.

They said investors held on to their positions ahead of the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday, which falls around Feb. 7 marking the end of Ramadan, when many speculators are expected to revive their activities in the market.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was 4.2 million dinars compared with the previous week's 4.1 million dinars.

The report said 2.7 million shares changed hands under 1,779 contracts concluded during the week, with daily average trading of 840,000 dinars.

The official AFM index based on 60 major companies closed at 153.16 points, down 0.84 points or 0.55 points from the week's

opening of 154 points.

Sectoral indices showed service sector firms gained 0.4 per cent during the week, while industrials dipped by 1.16 per cent, commercial banks and investment houses shed 0.2 per cent and insurance companies slipped by 0.4 per cent.

Industrials topped the week's trading with a turnover of 2.16 million dinars, followed by service sector companies with a volume of 1.68 million dinars, commercial banks and investment houses with 400,000 dinars and insurance companies with 2,730 dinars.

Stocks of 83 companies were involved in the week's business, with 12 of them closing with gains, 55 of them slipping and 16 remaining unchanged.

Pearl Consulting, a private sector firm which maintains its own market indicators, said its general share price index closed with a decline of 0.73 per cent.

In sectoral terms, Pearl said, commercial banks and investment houses dipped by 0.14 per cent, insurance

by 0.15 per cent and industrials by 1.75 per cent while service sector firms gained 0.42 per cent.

According to Pearl, commercial banks dipped by 0.18 per cent, investment banks by 0.09 per cent, specialised credit institutions by 0.27 per cent and Islamic banks by 1.09 per cent.

In the services sector, Pearl said, energy companies gained 0.98 per cent and four companies and hotels notched up 1.44 per cent while transport firms lost 0.73 per cent, investment and real estate companies 1.34 per cent and entities in the education and related sectors shed 0.77 per cent.

Among industrials, mining companies shed 0.93 per cent, chemical and petroleum firms 1.84 per cent, firms in the supply and consumption sector 0.84 per cent, pharmaceuticals 4.75 per cent, engineering companies 2.43 per cent and packing companies 0.11 per cent. Textiles gained 0.77 per cent and construction companies 0.12 per cent.

A monthly assessment provided by Pearl showed that commercial banks and investment houses dipped by 1.45 per cent since the beginning of the year, services sector firms by 2.83 per cent and industrials by 3.37 per cent. Insurance stocks gained 0.22 per cent, it said.

Pearl's general share price index dipped by 2.31 per cent in January.

During the same month, a further split-up by Pearl showed, commercial banks dipped by 1.82 per cent, investment houses 2.11 per cent and specialised credit institutions by 1.06 per cent while Islamic banks gained 0.37 per cent.

In the services sector, according to Pearl's monthly report, energy firms shed 1.59 per cent, tourism companies and hotels 3.75 per cent, press and publications companies 0.53 per cent and firms in the education and related sectors declined by 1.89 per cent. Transport companies gained 1.69 per cent and real estate firms 0.23 per cent.

Among industrials, said Pearl, mining companies dipped by 2.17 per cent in January, chemical and petroleum companies 2.22 per cent, firms in the supply and consumption sector by 1.77 per cent, pharmaceuticals by 3.33 per cent, engineering companies by 6.32 per cent, textiles by 4.35 per cent and packing companies by 1.41 per cent. Construction companies gained 3.22 per cent.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 807173 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (15/01/1997 - 19/01/1997)
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
STOCK	LISTED													
262,000	180,000	ARAB BANK	34.0	1.37	22	760	184465	256.35	257.00	255.50	-0.75	255.875	0.017	5
5,200	5,100	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.3	3.00	3	200	1500	5.10	5.00	5.00	-0.10	5.000	0.002	1
2,200	2,000	BANK OF JORDAN	11.7	0.00	1	200	650	3.18	2.25	3.25	+0.07	3.750	0.002	1
3,150	3,300	MED EAST SH. BK.	74.9	0.00	31	20300	22377	1.36	1.17	1.14	-0.03	1.147	0.003	5
2,320	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	6.7	4.00	13	3400	7045	2.35	2.25	2.20	-0.05	2.307	0.01	2
4,800	4,430	THE HOUSING BK.	12.6	2.96	14	4327	18877	4.68	4.72	4.67	-0.05	4.681	0.017	3
3,490	2,550	JOR. INVEST BANK	39.7	0.00	30	20385	55083	3.69	2.73	2.67	-0.07	3.701	0.024	5
980	950	JOR. GULF BANK	5.7	7.29	33	46750	45101	0.97	0.91	0.95	+0.04	0.965	0.024	5
2,770	3,470	JOR. SECURITIES BANK	18.0	0.00	44	13185	43214	1.76	0.81	0.75	-0.01	3.782	0.077	5
4,400	4,430	UNION DEV. INV. DEV.	104.7	0.00	1	200	3900	4.40	4.45	4.45	-0.05	4.450	0.002	1
3,400	3,400	JOR. INV. DEV. BANK	19.4	0.00	3	231	757	3.40	3.59	3.59	-0.01	3.888	0.002	3
3,800	3,730	ARAB. AL-HAL (ARITHA)	1.0	0.80	4	500	628	1.73	1.70	1.63	-0.07	1.653	0.035	1
1,210	1,240	PRIDEAL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	7	2825	3651	1.28	1.30	1.27	-0.03	1.292	0.028	2

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE
3,740	1,740	ARABIAN SEAS. TRSR.	13.1	4.55	1
3,200	2,380	GENERAL ARAB. TRSR.	73.2	0.00	2
4,350	4,350	TELECOM. INV. TRSR.	4.71	1	100
1,840	3,880	JOR. FRANCH. TRSR.	5.4	10.42	4

SECTOR	INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE
3,740	1,740	ARABIAN SEAS. TRSR.	13.1
3,200	2,380	GENERAL ARAB. TRSR.	73.2
4,350	4,350	TELECOM. INV. TRSR.	4.71
1,840	3,880	JOR. FRANCH. TRSR.	5.4

SECTOR	INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE
1,440	1,420	JOR. ELECTRIC. SW.	31.0
8,250	8,000	JOR. HOTEL. TOURISM	17.7
3,540	1,630	IBRID ELECTRICITY	5.8
4,600	4,600	TELECOM. INV. TRSR.	4.71
5,000	4,400	ARAB. INV. TRSR.	18.4
2,580	2,440	SHIPPING LINES	10.4
7,240	1,180	KATL. PORTFOLIO	0.00
4,400	5,400	JOR. SECURITIES BANK	18.0
1,400	1,510	MID. EAST TRSR.	45.8
3,540	3,440	ARAB. INV. TRSR.	18.4
3,090	3,020	KARSA EDUCATION	0.00
2,310	2,000	UNION DEV. INV.	11.0
880	830	UNION LAND DEV.	0.00

7.420	1.180	KATL. PORTFOLIO		0.00	3	18420	22213	1.21	1.23	1.17	1.20	-.01	1.193	.372	5
2.720	.840	KATL. ESTATE INV.	19.2	4.38	5	3776	1110	.91	.88	.87	.87	-.04	.877	.027	2
3.450	.590	JORDAN THT. TRAD.	30.80	0.00	568	1000	.63	.60	.49	.40	.40	-.04	.400	.015	1
1.460	1.510	MIL. EAST BOTTLE	45.8	0.00	1	250	300	.53	.167	.152	.152	-.01	.1520	.005	1
3.400	2.440	ARAB. INST. INV. EDUC.	14.0	5.65	10	4700	14817	3.56	2.67	1.45	1.54	-.01	3.527	.081	4

3.090	3.020	BARZA EDUCATION		17	8340	8680	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.04	-.01	1.043	1.95	2	
2.320	2.090	UNIFIED CO.	11.0	6.78	3	79500	61884	7.11	7.11	2.89	7.09	-0.02	7.090	5.00	4
.880	.830	UNION LAMB DEV.		0.00	2	11850	11729	.88	.85	.04	.04	-.01	.947	2.77	3
FERTILIZERS SECTOR															
243	381408					304382	INDEX	858	111.81			CHANGE	1.400		

SECTOR	INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	
3,400	3,380	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.4	
2,220	2,170	JOR. PROSTATEH NINES	35.7	
5,900	5,570	ARAB POTZELR CO.	17.4	
10,040	9,440	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.0	
6,400	5,900	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	8.7	
6,950	6,400	1,390	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	57.3
2,720	2,420	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	34.0	
6,950	6,880	JOR. WOOD. MILLS	8.9	
2,720	2,440	ARAB. PHARM. MANF.	19.9	
5,400	5,400	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	8.7	
2,650	1,590	JOR. PAPER MANF.	19.9	
5,050	4,850	ARAB. ALUM. IND.	12.4	
2,650	2,480	ARAB. ALUM. IND.	8.8	
4,600	4,600	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.00	
1,230	1,140	ARAB. PAPER CORP. TRD.	8.2	
7,730	6,700	NATIONAL INDS.	9.8	
3,250	3,040	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	0.00	
1,840	1,890	JOR. ROCKWELL INDS.	136.6	
2,820	2,440	DRIVE. CHEM. INDS.	47.4	
2,400	2,540	MAT. CHEM. WIRE. TRAC	14.2	
820	790	JOR. SULO. CHEM.	0.00	
3,530	1,370	ARAB. PHARM. CHEM.	26.6	
3,120	3,100	KAMITECH. INVEST.	27.0	
1,770	1,490	UNION. INDS.	5.1	
1,270	1,370	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	16.4	
970	920	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	25.0	
3,940	3,880	EL. MAT. READY WEAR	135.4	
3,230	3,240	EL. TOBACCO	29.5	
1,070	960	UNION CHEM. & VEC.	24.4	

10,040	9,480	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	15.0	8.11	45	4390	43709	9.58	10.01	9.87	8.87	- .11	9,970	100	3
6,400	5,900	JOR. CHEM. FACT.	8.7	0.00	0	4390	43709	9.58	10.01	9.87	8.87	- .11	9,970	100	3
1,270	1,390	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	57.3	0.00	1	4200	18418	1.33	1.79	1.29	1.28	+ .04	1,290	420	1
3,720	2,420	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	34.0	0.00	15	4580	11653	3.60	2.58	2.50	2.52	- .07	2,544	.092	3
6,950	6,880	JOR. WOOD. MILLS	8.9	3.60	6	3500	24375	4.95	4.95	6.95	6.95	-	6,950	.088	2

2.720	2.440	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	39.9	5.53	57	15834	14627	3.72	3.68	3.40	3.62	- .10	3.674	.176	5
4.600	5.900	JOR. CHEMICAL BROS.	8.7	3.79	4	400	1060	6.40	6.00	4.27	5.60	-	6.461	.074	1
1.590	1.590	JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	8.8	9.6	9	860	1.81	1.60	1.65	1.40	- .11	1.600	.018	2	
5.050	4.850	ARAB ALUMINA CO. LTD.	12.4	3.5	16	8000	1747	1.80	1.60	1.50	- .10	1.679	.121	5	
2.650	2.480	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.0	0.65	3	650	2300	3.81	3.65	3.55	3.55	-.06	3.551	.011	2

African votes could bring Johansson FIFA prize

LISBON (R) — If UEFA President Lennart Johansson succeeds Juao Havelange as president of soccer's world governing body FIFA next year, it would be a case of history repeating itself.

The affable 66-year-old Swede has bounced back from a credibility rating of virtually zero after his unfortunate racist remarks about Africans last November to a position of strength — based on African support.

It was largely African backing which helped Havelange win the FIFA presidency himself in 1974. The Brazilian courted and won his votes with much behind the scenes manoeuvring and promises of increased African representation at future World Cups.

Johansson has also gone for African support, albeit in the full glare of publicity, aligning UEFA, European soccer's governing body, with CAF, their African counterparts, in an historic friendship and sponsorship accord involving a glitzy all star match and the introduction of a new Under-17 tournament.

All the moves have been done in the open with the avowed aim of developing African soccer. The second half of the notion — support the Africans and they will support you — has not been so much as whispered but the intention could hardly have been clearer.

If Johansson does secure the African vote — and there is still more than a year to go before it will be taken — he has pulled off a shrewd masterstroke to ensure his political survival.

Apart from the grand political gesture of launching the all star match and the under-17 Meridian Cup, he has more importantly set up joint accords between UEFA and CAF.

This initiative, signed on Thursday and known as the convention, promises extensive co-operation in all football-related matters as well as aid on and off the playing field to the African nations.

The entire package comprising aid, sponsorship, technical help and support to CAF and African national federations, is being compared to the assistance programme UEFA set up to help the former Soviet states in the early 1990s.

Both moves strengthen Johansson's powerbase, helping him first win over the Eastern European nations and now the Africans in his drive to become the most important man in world soccer.

Much can happen between now and when Havelange steps down after next year's World Cup finals in France.

But a number of senior African officials said this week that their votes would probably be cast for Johansson, rather

than their own likely candidate Issa Hayatou of Cameroon, a youthful, vigorous man who seems to embody the dynamism of his continent.

But if Hayatou does not win the vote next year, he is unlikely to be disappointed for too long.

The idea that the presidency of FIFA, as well as the venue of future World Cup finals, should be rotated between Europe, Africa, Asia and South America is still a topic for discussion.

As part of a probable deal for backing Johansson, the Africans are likely to insist on a new ruling that would limit the term of office for any future FIFA president to either two or three four-year terms.

This is revolutionary stuff for, once in place, FIFA presidents have historically been in no rush to leave.

By the time he quits office, Havelange, who will be 82 next summer, would have held his autocratic sway over FIFA for 24 years. His English predecessor Sir Stanley Rous was president for 13 years, while the presidency of Jules Rimet of France lasted for 33 years from 1921-54.

Daniel Burley Woolfall of England even technically remained as FIFA president for three years after his death in 1918 — but that was through no divine intervention, merely a problem created by the confusion in Europe following the First World War.

Johansson seems to have come through a potentially difficult week sitting alongside the Africans with his integrity if not entirely restored then at least not further harmed.

Last November he referred to Africans as "blackies" — a remark he has admitting making and which he said was meant to be funny though he has since acknowledged it was stupid and ignorant.

Johansson and Hayatou were all smiles and handshakes on Thursday when they signed their new agreement and it was hard to see how heat could seriously challenge the older and vastly more experienced Johansson for the presidency — even if Hayatou himself still has considerable African support.

Other challengers are believed to be waiting in the wings and the names of current FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter and Italian Franco Carraro, the newly-elected president of the Italian league and a member of the international Olympic committee have been mentioned.

Johansson however, appears to have redeemed himself this week in Lisbon. If he does win the vote next year, this week could well have proved decisive.



Alberto Tomba of Italy passes a gate during the first leg of a World Cup slalom in Schladming. Tomba placed third after the first leg and went on to win the race with a combined time of one minute 35.87 seconds. Austria's Thomas Stangassinger finished second and France's Sebastien Amiez finished in third place (Reuters photo)

Tomba seizes first victory of season

SCHLADMING, Austria (R) — Italian Alberto Tomba seized his first victory of the season in a men's World Cup night slalom on Thursday, proving his fitness for his home Alpine Skiing World Championships in Sestriere.

Tomba clocked an aggregate time of one minute 35.87 seconds on the Planai Piste, and is now anxious for the February 16 championship slalom which will also be raced under floodlights.

"It was very important for me

to win a race before Sestriere," said Tomba. "This gives me confidence. Now I have two weeks to continue preparing for Sestriere."

Austria's first-run leader Thomas Stangassinger was second (1:36.03) despite a mistake in the middle section, while Frenchman Sebastien Amiez was third (1:36.19).

Austria's Thomas Sykora defied a hip injury sustained in a heavy fall before last Sunday's

slalom in Kitzbuehel to improve on a first-leg ninth place for overall fourth (1:36.23).

Sykora has won five of the eight slaloms staged so far this season, finished second once and continues to head the slalom World Cup standings.

"I am happy Tomba won. Now he is the favourite for the Sestriere slalom," said Sykora. "This removes a lot of weight from my shoulders."

'49ers Sapolu has heart surgery'

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Jesse Sapolu, a member of four Super Bowl-winning teams, had heart surgery earlier this week, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The 35-year-old Sapolu, a two-time pro bowl selection, had surgery to replace a valve in his heart, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

"As far as heart surgery goes, it's relatively minor, and he's doing great," Dwight Clark, the 49ers' vice president and director of football operations, told the Chronicle.

The report said team doctors knew Sapolu had had the valve leak since his youth, but the staff did not consider the condition threatening until it began increasing in size recently.

The team was told that Sapolu was up and around and not in intensive care, the newspaper reported.

After his recovery Sapolu should be allowed to continue doing everything he did before, but is likely to announce his retirement, given his age and the team's rebuilding plans.

A veteran of 170 games in a 49ers uniform, Sapolu was drafted in the 11th round in 1983 out of the University of Hawaii. He became a starter in 1987 and was selected to one pro bowl as a guard and another as a centre.

Sapolu also made the pro bowl this season as an alternate to Dallas Cowboys centre Ray Donaldson.

Le Saux back with England after horrific injury

Hoddle recalls Shearer, Flowers and Lee for Italy match

LONDON (R) — Blackburn's Graeme Le Saux was drafted in to the England squad on Thursday for the first time since he broke his fibula, dislocated his ankle and ruptured tendons in his right leg 14 months ago.

Le Saux is one of four players recalled to manager Glenn Hoddle's 24-man party to face Italy in a vital World Cup Group Two qualifier against Italy at Wembley on February 12.

The others are striker Alan Shearer, who missed England's 2-0 defeat of Georgia in November through injury, Shearer's Newcastle team mate Robert Lee and Le Saux's Blackburn colleague goalkeeper Tim Flowers.

With Everton left-back Andy Hinchcliffe sidelined for the rest of the season with a knee injury and Manchester United's Philip Neville grounded by glandular fever, Le Saux may walk straight back into the left wing-back position he favours.

"There's not many players who can play that position naturally and graeme is one of them," Hoddle told a news conference. "He's recaptured his form and we're delighted for him."

Le Saux, born in the Channel Islands, won the last of his 12 caps in a friendly against Portugal in December 1995.

Four days later he broke his leg and seriously damaged his ankle in a freak accident during a league match. He returned to the Blackburn first team just four months ago.

The irrepressible Paul Gascoigne is in the squad despite having his left ankle in plaster.

He picked up an injury while playing for Glasgow Rangers in a six-a-side tournament in the Netherlands but has assured Hoddle he will be fit to face the Italians, coming to Wembley for their first competitive match under new coach Cesare Maldini.

"He feels he's okay and his doctors feel he'll be okay come the 12th," Hoddle said. "But it's one of those injuries where you just can't tell and we won't really know how he is until Thursday or Friday next week."

Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham, who scored against Georgia, misses out after limping out of training on Monday with a nagging ankle injury which he first suffered at the start of the month.

Sheringham's Spurs team mate Darren Anderton, who is gradually fighting his way back to full fitness, is not recalled.

The other absentee from the squad that faced Georgia is Arsenal's former England captain David Platt (hamstring), who played in Italy with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria.

Both England and Italy go into the match with 100 percent records. England won their first three matches, Italy their first two.

The Italians are in transition following the resignation of former coach Arrigo Sacchi and the appointment of Maldini.

"I'm not sure if that is an advantage or a disadvantage," Hoddle said. "If Sacchi were still manager there would be pressure on the players. That pressure's now been lifted."

Squad:
Goalkeepers — David Seaman (Arsenal), Ian Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), David James (Liverpool), Tim Flowers (Blackburn).

Defenders — Gary Neville (Manchester United), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Graeme Le Saux (Blackburn), Gareth Southgate (Aston Villa), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Sol Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), Dominic Matteo (Liverpool).

Midfielders — Paul Ince (Inter Milan), Paul Gascoigne (Rangers), David Beckham (Manchester United), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), David Batty (Newcastle), Matthew Le Tissier (Southampton), Robert Lee (Newcastle).

Strikers — Nicky Barmby (Everton), Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand (Both Newcastle), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Ian Wright, Paul Merson (Both Arsenal).



Ukrainian basketball player Aleksander Okunski (R) shoots in the front of Croatian player Sandro Niecevic (L) during the qualification match between Croatia and Bulgaria for the European championship in the Croatian port of Rijeka on January 29. Croatia won 85-66 (Reuters photo)

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...om to Schlading. Tomba placed
minute 35.87 seconds. Austria's
third place (Reuters photo)

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Sylvia has won the
eight slalom races so far
season, finished second,
continues to lead the
World Cup slalom.
"I am happy. I am not
he is the favourite now.
Sestriere slalom, said he
"This removes a lot of
from my shoulders."

England injury

Lee for Italy match

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Steffi Graf

Hingis win 100th singles match as Graf beats Majoli

TOKYO (AFP) — Australian Open champion-Martina Hingis made south Amanda Coetzer her 100th career singles scalp on Friday and is now on collision course with Steffi Graf at the Toray Pan Pacific Open.

Hingis beat the South African 6-0, 6-1 while Graf beat defending champion Iva Majoli 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semifinals. The two are on course to meet in the final.

"It's great. In the last couple of weeks, I have won so many matches. I'm very happy with my game right now," said Hingis of her 100th win.

The Swiss teenager, who became the youngest Grand Slam champion this century by winning the Australian Open at 16 years, three months and 26 days, stretched her winning streak to 26 matches.

Hingis, who also won the Sydney tournament, attributed her form to her longer racket which she has been using this year.

"It improved my serve. Especially from the baseline, I hit so hard and strong and so fast. Since I'm playing with this racket, I haven't lost one match," said Hingis.

The teenager said she had trouble keeping her cool in the second set of the match. "If you lose the first set 6-0, you try to do something else. She started to play a little more aggressive."

Nuggets overcome 48 Olajuwon points to beat the Rockets

HOUSTON (R) — Ricky Pierce scored 25 points and Laphonso Ellis had 11 of his 23 in the fourth quarter as the Denver Nuggets overcame 48 points by Hakeem Olajuwon for a 113-109 victory over the Houston Rockets on Thursday.

Dale Ellis had 20 points and Ervin Johnson grabbed 15 rebounds for Denver. Olajuwon didn't attempt a free throw and made 24 field goals.

"I kept waiting for a foul and when I asked, they (the officials) said they would call one when they saw one," said Olajuwon, who made just one basket in the final 8:32. "I took good shots, but they tolled in and rolled out. That's basketball."

Olajuwon's 24 field goals without a free throw is believed to match an NBA all-time high established by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Milwaukee Bucks on January 25th, 1973. Wilt Chamberlain and Alex English each made 22 field goals without a free throw.

In Dallas, Sam Mitchell scored 21 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves used a pair of 7-0 bursts two minutes apart and beat the Dallas Mavericks for the sixth straight time, 92-82.

Tom Gugliotta scored 17 points and Kevin Garnett added 15 for the Timberwolves, who won despite the absence of injured rookie point guard Stephen Marbury.

Chris Gailling had 29 points and 18 rebounds for Dallas. In Los Angeles, Loy Vaught scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half as the Los Angeles Clippers sent the reeling Vancouver Grizzlies to their seventh consecutive loss, 100-94.

John Stockton added 16 points and 11 assists, and Greg Foster netted 13 points for Utah. Steve Smith had 41 points and Mookie Blaylock 15 for Atlanta.

Deion Sanders returns to baseball with Reds

CINCINNATI (R) — Deion Sanders, who wants to add a world series ring to his championship jewellery collection, will once again be a two-sport star after signing a contract to return to Major League Baseball with the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday.

Sanders, who sat out the 1996 baseball season to concentrate on playing football for the Dallas Cowboys, signed a one-year contract with the Reds with a mutual option year. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"I am pleased to be back in Cincinnati. I intend on playing a full season with the Cincinnati Reds," said Sanders, who entered the news conference walking band-in-hand with controversial Reds owner Marge Schott.

"This is the only team ... In baseball that I have really felt like it was a family. I love the city of Cincinnati. I really do, and that had a lot to do with it," added Sanders, who also has played baseball for the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants.

Sanders, considered the premier defensive back in the National Football League and one of its speediest players, played both defence and offence for the Dallas Cowboys this past season after putting his baseball career on hold.

He is the only athlete to play in both baseball's World Series and football's Super Bowl.

He was a member of the Atlanta Braves team that lost the World Series in 1992. He won the 1995 Super Bowl following his one season with the San Francisco 49ers. He then signed a highly-publicised seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Cowboys and won another Super Bowl in his first season with Dallas.

Sanders committed himself full time to football in 1996 and had been without a baseball contract since finishing the 1995 season with San Francisco Giants.

"In my life, this is a chapter that I'm not willing to close at this time, that's why I reopened it, because I truly enjoy the game of baseball," the flashy star said.

"It's all my body knows. I've been doing it since I was seven years old, playing both sports."

He said he does not expect his return to baseball to affect his status with the Cowboys.

"The Dallas Cowboys are probably the best organisation in sports, period, and I'm glad to be a part of that. And I want to be a part of that for the rest of my career," he said.

"I'm looking for a world series (win)."

This will mark Sanders' second stint with the Reds, who traded him to the Giants in July of 1995.

In his 494-game career, Sanders is a .264 hitter with 33 homers, 141 RBI and 127 steals. He is the only player ever to lead a league in triples while playing less than 100 games, stroking 14 for the Braves in 97 contests in 1992.

Scottie Pippen added 22 points and Toni Kukoc contributed 16 for Chicago, which improved the league's best road record to 18-4.

Luc Longley grabbed 11 rebounds for the Bulls, and Jason Caffey and Randy Brown each scored 11 points for Chicago.

In Utah, Karl Malone scored 32 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the Utah Jazz to their fifth straight victory, 102-96 over the Atlanta Hawks.

John Stockton added 16 points and 11 assists, and Greg Foster netted 13 points for Utah.

Steve Smith had 41 points and Mookie Blaylock 15 for Atlanta.

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UEFA attempts to unravel Bosnian League problem

LISBON (R) — Bosnian teams will not be allowed to compete in European competitions until the rival factions there agree which clubs represent the country, UEFA President Lennart Johansson said Thursday. There are currently three bodies in Bosnia — the Muslim League, the Croatian League and the Serb League — each organising their own league and Cup championships. All three are affiliated to the Bosnia-Herzegovina football federation, which is recognised by FIFA.

But UEFA is not prepared to admit three teams from each of the leagues into Europe's three cup competitions — the European Cup, the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup. They want the leagues to agree on one representative for each competition.

So far no solution to the problem has been found and UEFA have now called for an urgent meeting between the leagues, the Bosnian Football Federation and FIFA to resolve the matter before the end of this season.

Johansson said on Thursday: "We are not prepared to deal with three football associations from one country. We will only deal with one entity. We cannot have three Bosnian champion teams in the European Cup for example. It cannot happen."

A UEFA source said one possible solution would be a series of play-offs to establish what would effectively be a single Bosnian champion or Cup winning team.

Soccer is returning to some degree of normality in Bosnia.

FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, recently agreed home World Cup matches can be played in the refurbished Kosevo Stadium in Sarajevo after earlier insisting Bosnia's home matches should be played on neutral territory.

After playing their opening world cup qualifier against Croatia in Italy last October, Bosnia's first World Cup match scheduled for Sarajevo is against Greece on April 2.

As a result of FIFA's ruling for the national team, UEFA agreed on Thursday that the Bosnian Under-21 team, which comes under its jurisdiction, could also play its matches at home.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Rodman's pal joins Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AFP) — Jack Haley, best known as the best friend and calming influence on erratic Dennis Rodman, signed a contract Thursday with the National Basketball Association New Jersey Nets. The Nets, 11-30, scored a club-low 62 points in a loss to Cleveland two days ago. They have lost nine of 11, including three in a row. Haley spent part of last season on the NBA champion Chicago Bulls, in part to help keep Rodman in line, a role similar to one he played with the flamboyant fellow forward in San Antonio. With Haley gone this season, Rodman lost his cool and kicked a photographer during a game, resulting in an 11-game suspension that will last another 10 days.

Blair backs World Cup bid

LONDON (AFP) — Labour leader Tony Blair announced Thursday that he will make every effort to ensure football's 2006 World Cup comes to Britain if his party is voted into power later this year. "We are actually going to put it in our manifesto, so right up front we are going to give it every single bit of energy and force that we can," Blair said before a meeting with England coach Glenn Hoddle. "I think it is a very sound bid. I think it is right that it comes to Britain then." Labour's sports spokesman Jack Cunningham rejected suggestions that England's hosting of the European Championships last year was so recent that it undermined the chances of staging the World Cup. "I think actually the huge success of Euro '96 strengthens our bid," he said.

Becker adviser in tax fraud probe

MUNICH (AFP) — The business adviser to tennis star Boris Becker is being investigated for tax fraud it was revealed here on Friday. But magistrate Manfred Wick declined to say if the action against Axel Meyer-Woelden was linked to a search carried out in Becker's house by tax inspectors shortly before Christmas. Last December the mass circulation Bild Zeitung revealed that tax inspectors had searched Becker's home as part of a probe into his tax situation for 1990 to No. 1 lived in the tax haven of Monaco. Bild said four inspectors left his house armed with several dossiers although a spokesman for Munich's tax authorities refused to confirm or deny the story. Becker himself was not at home at the time of the inspectors' visit.

Capobianco hearing postponed

MONTE CARLO (R) — The arbitration panel of the International Amateur Athletic Federation which was to review the doping case of Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco next month has been postponed until March. The IAAF said Thursday. The IAAF said in a statement it had agreed to a request by Capobianco's lawyers for a postponement and the panel would now meet on March 15-16 instead of February 8-9. It is the second time this month that Capobianco's case has been postponed. The IAAF asked earlier in January for more time to examine the Australian's claims that a positive dope test in Hengelo, Netherlands in May last year could have been caused by eating contaminated meat. Capobianco, a former world championships 200 metres finalist, faces a four-year ban if he is found guilty. The 26-year-old was cleared to run in the Atlanta Olympics after an independent tribunal representing athletics Australia decided there were irregularities in the handling of the urine sample given by Capobianco.

Ceron out of London marathon

LONDON (R) — Dionicio Ceron, winner of the London Marathon for the past three years, said on Thursday he would not run in this year's race. "London has become very special to me, but after being champion for three years I recognise it is now time for me to have a look at my race career and tackle new events," the Mexican athlete said in a statement. Ceron was the first three-time winner of the marathon through London's city centre and organisers, who issued his statement, said they hoped he would take part in future races. Nearly 40,000 people will take part in the marathon which will be held on April 13.

Zoff leaves Lazio presidency

ROME (R) — Dino Zoff stepped down temporarily as Lazio president on Thursday, a day after the head of the Italian coaches' union said he could not combine the job with coaching the Italian Serie A soccer club. "I have decided to stand down as president while I am coach" the Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper quoted Zoff as saying. Coaches' union head Azeglio Vicini, who also coached Italy to the 1990 World Cup, said on Wednesday that Zoff's appointment as Lazio coach in place of the fired Czech Zdenek Zeman contravened his union's rules. The union does not allow coaches to have other major functions within a club, such as being president. Zoff, who won the World Cup as Italy's captain and goalkeeper in 1982, has said his return to the bench is only a stopgap and a new coach will be in charge next season.

Bowe to join Marines

NEW YORK (AFP) — While Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield are planning a \$50 million-dollar rematch, Riddick Bowe is headed for marine "boot camp."

Former world heavyweight boxing champion Bowe said Thursday he will join the United States Marines and not fight again until the end of the year.

Bowe enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves this week. He expects to report to Parris Island, South Carolina, on February 10 for eight weeks of boot camp, the first formal instruction period for new recruits.

"This is something I have wanted to do all my life," Bowe said.

"Now, I am looking forward to becoming a marine with the same determination and commitment that made me champion."

The three-year commitment includes camp and one weekend a month attached to a marine reserve unit near his residence outside Washington. Bowe said he will return to the ring in April once boot camp is completed.

The decision means Bowe will not fight again until his manager, Rock Newman, is done with a one-year suspension imposed after a post-fight brawl last year in Madison Square Garden.

When Bowe first fought Andrew Golota, "Conquering this new challenge has truly energised Riddick," Newman said. "He is passionately consumed with becoming a Marine and I am very happy to see him realising another of his dreams."

Bowe, 26, is 40-1 with one drawn and has 32 knockouts. He last fought on December 14, when he was awarded his second straight disqualification win over Golota for low blows.

Holyfield lost the undisputed World Championship to Bowe in 1992. Bowe dropped the World Boxing Council crown and then lost the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to Holyfield in 1993. Bowe later won a non-title rematch with Holyfield.

Bowe has been shut out of the major title picture, but Marine service will require him to stay fit. That could make him dangerous at the end of the year, once the heavyweight championship puzzle is clearer.

Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall fight for the vacant WBC crown next month. Holyfield defends his WBA title against Tyson on May 3 and Michael Moorer will defend the IBF championship in March.

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